



WELCOME TO PROGRESS REPORT THREE ALBACON 98: THE HOMELAND

In association with CLAYMORE, the British Highlander (TV) fan club and the organisers of HOMELAND, we will be hosting a special media event as part of the programme of activities over the convention weekend.

Some months ago, Jettie Goldie who was hoping to run a Scottish HIGHLANDER event approached me. The only available weekend she could confirm came 2 weeks after ALBACON, which she felt would be unfair to both of our attendees so it was decided that a merger was the best option. Following a public meeting that took place during HYPOTHETICON, this was accepted by the ALBACON committee.

So, I can now confirm that HOMELAND will be running a programme of small discussions, videos, signing sessions and guest talks. Jim Byrnes, who plays Joe Dawson in the series, has confirmed his attendance as a guest of honour (subject to work commitments). HOMELAND also hopes to announce a British guest early next year.

ALBACON can also announce that Master of Stop Motion Animation, Ray Harryhausen, will be appearing at the convention where he will be giving an illustrated lecture on his movie work. Fans will know his work in such classic films as JASON and the ARGONAUTS, CLASH of the TITANS and ONE MILLION YEARS BC.

More background on HOMELAND, Jim Byrnes and hotel booking information are included in this progress report.

Cuddles xx

All enquiries about the convention should be directed to our HQ:

ALBACON 98
Flat ½ 10 Atlas Road
Springburn
Glasgow
G21 4TE
☎ [0141] 558 2862
Email: albacon@dial.pipex.com

HIGHLANDER: THE HOMELAND

In 1985, the movie HIGHLANDER was released, starring a Frenchman (Christopher Lambert) playing the Highlander and a Scotsman (Sean Connery) playing a Spaniard who was actually Egyptian! It spawned two sequels – BAD sequels as popular opinion goes – and eventually, a TV series. In fact, the TV series has reached its own phenomenal cult status with many fans that have never seen the first movie!

The TV show aired for the first time in 1991, starring a relatively unknown British actor, Adrian Paul as Duncan MacLeod, a younger cousin of Connor ("same clan, different village"). The series is now into its 6th year of production and is able to explore aspects of immortality. The tragedy and irony is clear: watching friends, family and lovers age and die, again and again, while fighting for one's life with a sword on a daily basis. In the 2nd season another concept was introduced: the Watchers. A secret society of mortals who know about the immortals, who watch and record their lives for posterity, unobserved. They are sworn

never to interfere, never to reveal themselves, particularly to Immortals! Joe Dawson (Jim Byrnes) is a Watcher. He is Watching Duncan but he is also his friend. It is a friendship filled with pitfalls and pain for both of them.

Jim Byrnes lives in Vancouver where he has established himself not only as an actor but also as a musician. Despite a serious car accident in 1972, he has racked up an enviable string of credits, both on - and off - screen. He formed the Jim Byrnes Band in 1981 and has released several recordings. His acting credits include *Omen 4*, *The Hitchhiker*, *Wiseguy*, *The Commish* and *The Hat Squad*.

- Jette Goldie



ROBOBATTLE TOURNAMENT!

This is a new event for ALBACON, which will take place on either Saturday or Sunday, subject to response. Your Chairman will be instructing the Tech Crew to include an entry into the Tournament, so if you want to beat Sparks, this will be your opportunity.

Full details on **HOW TO BUILD YOUR ROBOT** plus the combatants' rules are included with this progress report. Entries into the tournament must be registered no later than 1st September 1998.

HOTEL BOOKING

Hotel rates have finally been negotiated:

- £24 per person sharing
- £30 per person single.

The rates are fully inclusive of VAT & breakfast and will be available from Thursday, 24th September to Tuesday, 29th September 1998. For those of you who may not have stayed at the Central before, let me tell you a bit about it. The hotel is an old Victorian railway hotel, situated at the very corner of Central Station, which is the main terminal from the South and regional areas. It has some of the most enviable architectural features for a city centre hotel and is ideally located for shoppers & tourists. The hotel has a small health club in the basement which has a modest swimming pool, Jacuzzi, sauna & steam room, small gym and a high tech golf simulator (if that's your thing!) which are all accessible to residents. Rooms are double - glazed but some sound does filter through - especially the station announcements! A frequent occurrence which inspired a short story by Harlan Ellison, when he was an ALBACON CoH in 1985!

All reservations must be made through ALBACON - do not telephone the hotel! A booking fee of £10 is recommended but not compulsory and a form is included with this PR. (Please copy it for your friends.) If you have to cancel before the convention, you will probably get a refund but this is not guaranteed. Postal bookings should be sent no later than 1st September 1998 although late enquiries should be directed to ALBACON, and we will endeavour to get you placed at the hotel.

The hotel cannot guarantee that reservations booked on arrival will be

offered at the convention rate. Fans who are wheelchair users are urged to book early and every effort will be made to ensure they are placed in the convention hotel. If the Central is full, the overflow hotel will be the Charing Cross Tower,

which is approximately 10 minutes (brisk walk) away.

To avoid disappointment, return your form as soon as possible. Thank you.

THANKS



This Progress Report would not have been possible without the help & support of the following people, who have been nominated for a Gold Star:

Martyn Delaney, for the hilarious cover art; Elaine Nicol of CLAYMORE and Jette Goldie of HIGHLANDER: THE HOMELAND.

MEMBERSHIP RATES ARE:

ATTENDING	£25 (£30 from 1 st Jan 98)
SUPPORTING	£15
CHILD ATTENDING (age 5 - 15 yr.)	£15

Memberships are non-refundable at any time. Payment will be accepted by cheque, postal orders or money orders payable to ALBACON. Please do not send cash by post - it isn't safe and you lose more than we do! If any of our representatives are at a convention in your area, cash payments will be accepted.

CURRENT LIST OF MEMBERS by badge name (up to 21st November 1997)

G = Guest, C = Committee, A = Attending, S = Supporting, P = Pre-supporting

A040 Alligator DeScarles	PC11 John S. Ewing	A013 Ann Mair
A041 A ^P	A017 Elzgie	S011 Richard Mosses
A042 Erik Arthur	A037 Jim Gallagher	A010 Nickrums
A028 Auntie Christ	A047 Jim Gillespie	A050 Psycho Chicken
A036 Bocker	G005 Ray Harryhausen	G002 Kim Newman
A044 Chris Boyce	G008 Mrs. Harryhausen	G000 Prof. John Salthouse
A025 Robert Bryson	A039 Frank Harvey	A004 Professor's Assistant
G007 Jim Byrnes	A040 Tamara Hutchinsan	A045 Carolyn Seilk
S022 Andrew Clowe	G001 Diana Wynne Jones	S032 Iain Smith
S023 Jill Clowe	A024 Erlend Leslie	A020 Stuart
S014 Andy Croft	P009 Iain McCord	C020 Sparles
C012 Cuddles	C018 Grant McElougall	A010 Cameron Taylor
C020 Jason Dunning	C019 Pat McMurray	C055 Stuart Vandal
A016 The Deadman	A046 Mad Liff	A027 Vaction
A015 Martyn Delaney	A026 Joyce Mains	A013 Zafra